

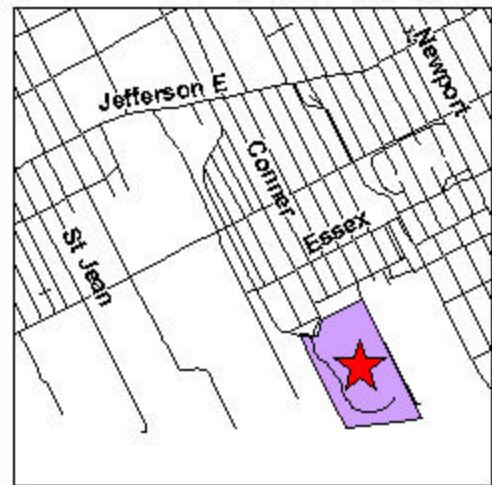
Maheras Park

General location: Detroit River at the foot of Conner.

Local v 12/5/97
State
State Marker
National



Maheras Park



Historic overview:

Maheras Park is located at the end of end of Conner Avenue and along the Detroit River. The Public Park consists of 53 acres including a community center, pool, ball fields and recreation equipment.

The history of the park dates back to 1928 when the city began acquiring land and called it Algonquin Park. The Works Project Administration helped in 1930 and then the city acquired more land in 1943, 54 and 1957. The park was renamed in the 1940's after an Army private, Peter Maheras who died in WWII while trying to save others. Maheras had grown up in the neighborhood surrounding the park. The neighborhood around the park developed in the 30' and 40's as a middle class racial and ethnic mix. A neighborhood association formed in the 1950's to seek improvements on a park that the city had otherwise neglected. Bronson Gentry headed the Jefferson-Chalmers Conservation Council and focused his attention on getting a new recreation facility and pool. The association felt they were being looked over after several requests and an opinion that other parks were getting improvements. In 1964 the city finally submitted a proposal to the association, which rejected it saying that it wasn't "modern" enough. A year later the city increased its budget for the project and a plan was made to build a modern (1960's) community recreation facility with swimming pool and bathhouse. The project was completed in 1968.

Through the years the park has withstood many threats to decrease the size of the park or invade on its lands.

